

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 DRC-01 /130 W
----- 020769

R 060930Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3721

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2672

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: MERGER: "SCHWAYYA-SCHWAYYA"

1. LESS THAN TEN DAYS AFTER CLOSE OF SADAT/QADHAAFI MEETINGS IN CAIRO ON NEXT STEPS TOWARD UNITY, MERGER PROCESS APPEARS TO BE LOSING MOMENTUM QUICKLY. ONE GAUGE OF THIS IS PROGRESS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. AUGUST 29 DECREE ESTABLISHING UNITY STATE STIPULATED IN ARTICLE III THAT ASSEMBLY WAS TO BE FORMED ON SEPTEMBER 1. IN FACT, IT TOOK UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3 FOR NAMES OF EGYPTIAN "CANDIDATES" (NOT MEMBERS) TO BE RELEASED IN PRESS. SEPTEMBER 4 AHARAM NOTED THAT ASSEMBLY WOULD MEET IN MID-MONTH. LATEST NEWS APPEARS IN SEPTEMBER 6 AHARAM, WHICH STATES THAT ASSEMBLY WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. AHARAM'S ARTICLE CONTINUES
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THAT, AFTER THIS SESSION, ASSEMBLY WILL BE BROKEN INTO

SEVERAL GROUPS WHICH WILL TAKE FIELD TRIPS IN BOTH EGYPT AND LIBYA TO FAMILIARIZE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES' VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO DISCUSS DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

2. WITH QADHAAFI OUT OF CAIRO, GOE APPEARS TO BE INTENT ON WATERING DOWN POLITICAL PROVISIONS OF AUGUST 29 DECREE. NOT ONLY HAS FORMATION OF ASSEMBLY BEEN DELAYED BY A MONTH (AND IN THE END, PERHAPS MORE), BUT RESIDENT MINISTERS TO BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA ON SEPTEMBER 1 HAVE NOT BEEN NAMED, ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES. AHRAH OF SEPTEMBER 6 SUGGESTS THAT THIS MIGHT TAKE PLACE BY DECREE AT END OF COMING WEEK--I.E., ABOUT MID-MONTH. ONLY PART OF AUGUST 29 DECREE THAT EGYPTIANS APPEAR SERIOUS ABOUT ARE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS WHICH SERVE THEIR INTERESTS. WILEY

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